Price Index

3235. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of consumer price index assessed in the year 1960-61;

(b) the said figures assessed in the year 1990-91;

(c) the purchasing power of one rupee at the end of the year 1990-91 and also at present in comparison to the year 1960-61;

(d) whether the purchasing power of common consumer has further declined in the current year in comparison to the last year;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The All-India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial workers (base 1960=100) was 102 in 1960-61 and 951 in 199091.

(c) and (d). The purchasing power of rupee, measured as a reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base 1960=100), was 98 paise in 1960-61, 11 paise in 1990-91 and 9 paise in September, 1991 (latest available). The purchasing power of rupee during September, 1990 was 11 paise.

(e) The decline in the purchasing power of rupee is due to persistent inflationary pressures in the economy, attributable to large fiscal deficit, supply and demand imbalances in sensitive commodities and inflationary expectation in the economy.

(f) The steps taken by the Government to bring down the rate of inflation include a substantial reduction in fiscal deficit, check on expansion of money supply to curb effective demand, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, streamlining of the Public Distribution System, providing incentives for higher production and savings and strict action against hoarders and profiteers.

Ishwari Prasad Committee

3236. SHRI BARELAL JATAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-Departmental Empowered Committee constituted to process the recommendations of the Ishwari Prasad Committee regarding Journalists has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Supply of Foodgrains to Himachal Pradesh

3237. PROF PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Himachal Pradesh for increasing the supply of foodgrains and other goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and